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Forty-fourth session

ACTIONS TAKEN ON DECISIONS OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides, in summary form, information on the follow-up by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on all decisions/conclusions of the forty-third session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme that called for specific action by the High Commissioner. The section headings and paragraphs referred to in chapter II below correspond to those contained in the report of the forty-third session of the Executive Committee, document A/AC.96/804. Decisions/conclusions requiring action by Member States or other entities, rather than the High Commissioner, are not reported on.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN

A. Conclusions and Decisions on International Protection

1. General Conclusion on International Protection

Para. 21. (c) Notes the value of reporting by States parties on implementation of their responsibilities under the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, again urges States which have not yet done so to respond to the questionnaire on

implementation circulated by the High Commissioner, and calls upon the High Commissioner and all States to work together to strengthen implementation, including through heightened promotional efforts, better monitoring arrangements and more harmonized application of the refugee definition criteria;

UNHCR Action: UNHCR has continued its efforts to strengthen implementation of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, in particular through activities in the field of promotion of refugee law. A report on these activities is submitted under document EC/SCP/78. Practical ways and means to monitor better the physical protection of refugees were discussed at the inter-sessional meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection on the basis of a document entitled "The Personal Security of Refugees" (EC/1993/SCP/CRP.3). Delegations may also refer to the "Draft Report of the 17 and 18 May 1993 Meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection" (EC/1993/SCP/CRP.5).

Para. 21 (i) Expresses appreciation for the progress report on the implementation of the Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women (EC/SCP/74), notes with great concern the precarious situation of many refugee women, whose physical safety is often endangered and who often do not have equal access to basic necessities including adequate health and educational facilities, and calls upon all States, UNHCR and other concerned parties to ensure implementation of the Guidelines, particularly through measures aimed at eliminating all forms of sexual exploitation of and violence against refugee women, protecting women heads of household and promoting their active participation and involvement in decisions affecting their lives and communities;

UNHCR Action: A number of protection issues relating specifically to refugee women, including a review of progress on the implementation of the Policy on Refugee Women were discussed at the inter-sessional meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection and the first ever Joint Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters and the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection on the basis of two Conference Room Papers: "Note on Certain Aspects of Sexual Violence Against Refugee Women" (EC/1993/SCP/CRP.2) and "Making the Linkages: Protection and Assistance Policy and Programming to Benefit Refugee Women" (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.16). Delegations expressed interest in considering a set of conclusions on "Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence" as well as on "Personal Security of Refugees" for adoption by the forty-fourth session of the Executive Committee.

Para. 21 (j) Reaffirms its Conclusion No. 64(XLI) on Refugee Women and International Protection, and calls upon the High

Commissioner to pursue her efforts to increase public awareness of the rights and protection needs of refugee women and girls, inter alia, through further sensitization of bodies concerned with the status of women, and by promoting and supporting the inclusion of the issue of the rights of refugee women on the international human rights agenda;

UNHCR Action: The Office participated in the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action recognized that, in view of the complexities of the global refugee crisis, a comprehensive approach by the international community was needed. In such a strategy, the special needs of women and children in regard to protection and assistance, were recognized (A/CONF.157/23, para. 23).

Para. 21 (k) Encourages the High Commissioner to ensure that specific attention to refugee women's issues becomes an integral part of refugee protection and requests her also to ensure that the protection situation of both refugee women and of refugee children is included in the plan of work for forthcoming meetings of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection;

UNHCR Action: The inter-sessional meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection on 17 and 18 May 1993, in addition to its consideration of sexual violence against refugee women (see para. 21 (i)), also considered specific protection problems facing refugee children. The protection situation of refugee women and children were also discussed at the Joint Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters and the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection on 18 May 1993. At its meeting of 30 September 1993, the Sub-Committee will have before it a document entitled UNHCR Policy on Refugee Children (EC/SCP/82). The initiatives taken by the Office to ensure that refugee women's issues become an integral part of refugee protection are outlined in the Conference Room Paper entitled "Making the Linkages: Protection and Assistance Policy and Programming to Benefit Refugee Women" (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.16).

Para. 21 (v) Notes the importance of promotion of refugee law as an element of emergency preparedness, as well as to facilitate prevention of and solutions to refugee problems, and calls upon the High Commissioner to continue to strengthen the Office's promotion and training activities;

UNHCR Action: A description of the initiatives taken to strengthen the promotion and training activities by the Office is contained in the "Information Note on UNHCR's Activities for Refugee Law Promotion, Dissemination and Training" (EC/SCP/78).

Para. 21 (w) Deplores ethnic and other forms of intolerance as one of the major causes of forced migratory movements, at the same time expresses its concern regarding xenophobia in segments of the population in a number of countries receiving refugees and asylum-seekers which has exposed them to considerable danger and, therefore, calls upon States and UNHCR to continue to work actively to promote broader understanding throughout national communities of the plight of refugees and asylum-seekers;

UNHCR Action: UNHCR has been involved in activities intended to raise public awareness of the realities of the refugee phenomenon. These have included participation with NGOs, trade unions, etc., in public meetings and seminars, exhibitions, and film shows. The issue was also given particular attention during the discussions on the personal security of refugees at the inter-sessional meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection (See EC/1993/SCP/CRP.5). Details on UNHCR's public information strategy and its linkage to protection were provided to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters at its meeting of 19 May 1993 in document EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.10.

Para. 21 (x) Takes note of the important contribution being made by the High Commissioner to concerned international bodies and requests her to continue to seek expanded cooperation with these bodies, such as UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNEP, the Centre for Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights, IOM and ICRC, and thereby, inter alia, to promote broadened awareness of the link between refugees and human rights, as well as development and environmental issues;

UNHCR Action: The Office has continued its close cooperation with organizations concerned with the situation of refugees, undertaking frequent consultations, in particular with ICRC and IOM to discuss issues of mutual interest. Moreover, the Office has sought to strengthen its cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights and other human rights bodies of the United Nations with a view to promoting effective responses to human rights problems which are generating, or threaten to generate, flows of refugees or which impede their return.

Para. 21 (y) Reiterates its call to States and relevant international agencies actively to explore and promote measures favourable to stateless persons and, recognizing the absence of an international body with a general mandate for these persons, calls upon the High Commissioner to continue her efforts generally on behalf of stateless individuals and to work actively to promote adherence to and implementation of the international instruments relating to statelessness.

UNHCR Action: In the UNHCR training programmes for national authorities, a presentation on statelessness has been included in the curriculum. The Office has also called upon the Centre for Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to include the issue of statelessness on their agendas.

3. Decision on Inter-sessional meetings

Para. 23 (a) Decides to request the High Commissioner to convene at least one inter-sessional meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection to continue constructive discussions on relevant protection issues;

UNHCR Action: An inter-sessional meeting was convened on the 17 and 18 May 1993. The draft report of that meeting is contained in EC/1993/SCP/CRP.5.

Para. 23 (b) Decides further to request the High Commissioner to report to the Executive Committee at its forty-fourth sessions on progress in the deliberations of the Sub-Committee.

UNHCR Action: An "Information Note on the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection" is submitted to the Executive Committee as document EC/SCP/79.

C. Conclusion on the Refugee Situation in Africa

Para. 25 (b) Calls upon the High Commissioner acting in concert, as appropriate, with the relevant States, other parties, regional organizations, of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to continue her initiatives to address the root causes of population displacements and find solutions to the problems of refugees, returnees and, where applicable, internally displaced persons, including efforts to contribute towards the well-being of refugees and to develop, whenever required, modalities to gain access to and deliver protection and assistance to the affected populations in conformity with the mandate of UNHCR;

UNHCR Action: Details on UNHCR's cross-border and cross-mandate operations in Africa, as well as other efforts to address the root causes of refugee flows are provided in "UNHCR Activities financed by Voluntary Funds" (A/AC.96/808(Part I)).

Para. 25 (g) Expresses appreciation to the High Commissioner for her efforts to promote and facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of South African refugees and exiles, urges her to continue these initiatives in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent where the conditions for voluntary repatriation are ripe, and calls upon all parties concerned to overcome the obstacles to successful implementation of

voluntary repatriation and reintegration of refugees in all these instances;

UNHCR Action: A full account of the voluntary repatriation of South African refugees and exiles is provided in the relevant sections of document A/AC.96/808(Part I).

Para. 25 (i) Notes with deep appreciation the recent agreement on the peace accord between the Mozambican Government and RENAMO and calls upon the High Commissioner to promote and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Mozambican refugees, when appropriate, consistent with the principle of return in safety and dignity, and their reintegration back in their society.

UNHCR Action: UNHCR has intensified its preparations for the Mozambique Repatriation Operation and launched an "Appeal for the Repatriation and Reintegration of Mozambican Refugees" in May 1993, covering a three-year programme. A detailed account is contained in section 1.11 of document A/AC.96/808(Part I).

D. Conclusion on the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees (CPA)

Para. 26 (d) Welcomes the further progress made at the Fifth Tripartite Thai/Lao/UNHCR Meeting in Rayong, Thailand, from 13-14 July 1992, on the repatriation of Laotian refugees and asylum-seekers and calls upon the High Commissioner to reinforce efforts for the return and reintegration of Laotian refugees and asylum-seekers from Thailand and China;

UNHCR Action: During the Sixth Tripartite Thai/Lao/UNHCR Meeting in Savannakhet on 15 and 16 July 1993, both Governments strongly emphasized the positive progress in repatriation, notably the increased number of repatriants and the good cooperation which has characterized the repatriation operation. From June 1991 to May 1992, a total of 1,977 Lao repatriated voluntarily. From June 1992 to May 1993, the number of repatriants totaled 3,966. Another indication of the progress achieved is that the number of returns from Thailand during the first five months of 1993 was equal to two-thirds of the total number of returnees during all of 1992. In addition, 1,270 Lao nationals repatriated from the People's Republic of China between June 1992 and the end of May 1993. Further details are provided in the relevant portions of document A/AC.96/808(Part II).

F. Conclusion on the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA)

28. (e) Calls upon the High Commissioner to continue her active and full participation in technical support and follow-up of

CIREFCA for the duration of the process and suggests that UNHCR draws upon the valuable lesson of CIREFCA for other regions;

UNHCR Action: Since the forty-third session of the Executive Committee, the Office has continued to participate actively in the CIREFCA process, particularly through the efforts of the CIREFCA Joint Support unit. Details on this support are contained in section 4.0 of document A/AC.96/808(Part V).

H. Conclusions and Decisions on Refugee Women and Children

1. Refugee Women

Para. 30 (d) Calls upon the High Commissioner to ensure active management support to integrate refugee women's issues throughout the planning, budgeting and delivery of protection and assistance programmes;

UNHCR Action: At the joint meeting of the Sub-Committees on Administrative and Financial Matters and of the Whole on International Protection held on 18 May 1993, a Conference Room Paper entitled "Making the Linkages: Protection and Assistance Policy and Programming to Benefit Refugee Women" (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.16) was considered. The paper outlined progress in the integration of women's issues into the planning, budgeting and delivery of protection and assistance programmes. Such a strategy of integration was also one of the objectives of the internal UNHCR Working Group on Programming and Operational Capacity established by the High Commissioner (see "Summary Report on the UNHCR Internal Working Group on Programme Management and Operational Capacity", document EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.20). The Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women was a member of the Working Group.

Para. 30 (e) Encourages follow-up to the initiatives undertaken to enhance the participation of uprooted women in Central American and Mexico through the First Regional Forum on Refugee, Returnee and Displaced Women (FOREFEM), within the context of the CIREFCA process, and suggests that the High Commissioner use this regional approach, where applicable, for addressing refugee women's issues in other parts of the world;

UNHCR Action: As a result of the heightened awareness of women's issues generated by the FOREFEM Conference (Guatemala, February 1992), UNHCR Offices in Central America proceeded to revise/refine their refugee/returnee programmes to assure a gender focus. A UNIFEM consultant has been attached to the CIREFCA Joint Support Unit to assure technical support.

Para. 30 (f) Urges the High Commissioner to continue to expand People Oriented Planning training courses with particular emphasis on UNHCR programme and protection staff and on replication among implementation partners, and reiterates the goal that all UNHCR staff receive such training;

UNHCR Action: In addition to the People Oriented Planning (POP) training outlined in document EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.16 cited above (see UNHCR action under paragraph 30 (d)), a Training of Trainers course was held in June 1993 and a Management Orientation course and a regular POP course were held in July 1993. It is hoped that with the identification of additional resources, there will be a substantial expansion in course participation, including implementation partners.

Para. 30 (g) Notes with serious concern that during the first stage of an emergency, community mobilization, particularly the participation of refugee women, has not been adequately addressed and requests UNHCR to undertake appropriate remedial action in this regard;

UNHCR Action: The Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (EPRS) has already established stand-by arrangements with an NGO (Rädda Barnen) for social services staff to be deployed in emergencies. The Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women will ensure that their training includes the POP approach. In addition, Programme and Technical Support Section (PTSS) is actively expanding its roster of qualified candidates for social services posts. Emergency management training now routinely includes a POP component and it is expected that this will be even further integrated in the Emergency Management Training Programme (EMTP) through specific case studies developed by the POP consultant, in cooperation with EPRS. Through such training conducted in the various regions, it is hoped that greater awareness of the importance of community mobilization will be raised, in particular the participation of refugee women during the first phase of an emergency.

Para. 30 (h) Stresses the ongoing need to implement and monitor more fully the Policy on Refugee Women (A/AC.96/754) and the Guidelines on Protection of Refugee Women (EC/SCP/67);

UNHCR Action: Studies since the last session of the Executive Committee reflecting UNHCR's commitment to ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the Policy on Refugee Women include: "UNHCR's Policy on Refugee Women: An Evaluation Summary" (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.27) and "Making the Linkages: Protection and Assistance Policy and Programming to Benefit Refugee Women" (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.16).

Para. 30 (j) Requests the High Commissioner to provide at the forty-fourth session of the Executive Committee a further progress report on implementation of the Policy on Refugee Women, with appropriate attention to the special problems of refugee women heads of household and physical protection.

UNHCR Action: See UNHCR action under paragraph 30 (h).

2. Refugee Children

Para. 31 (a) Welcomes the appointment of the Senior Coordinator for Refugee Children, and calls upon the High Commissioner to continue to ensure active management support to mainstream refugee children's issues throughout the planning and delivery of protection and assistance programmes;

UNHCR Action: The efforts of the High Commissioner to integrate refugee children's issues in the Office's protection and assistance programmes are reflected in the Conference Room Paper entitled, "Programming for the Benefit of Refugee Children" (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.15), presented to the joint meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters and of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection held on 18 May 1993.

Para. 31 (b) Welcomes the steps taken to strengthen the cooperation with UNICEF and other United Nations organizations, other inter-governmental organizations and the non-governmental community on matters related to refugee children, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to develop further this cooperation, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and assure the incorporation of the special needs of refugee children in the various programme activities of these organizations;

UNHCR Action: UNHCR's cooperation with other organizations in matters affecting refugee children is reflected in the Conference Room Paper cited in UNHCR action under paragraph 31 (a).

Para. 31 (c) Notes with concern the poor nutritional condition of refugee children in some refugee situations and the impact on the health of these children, and calls on the international community to provide adequate assistance to ensure that the basic nutritional needs of refugee children are met; and urges UNHCR and its operational partners to continue to monitor the quantity and quality of food supplied and consumed in refugee feeding operations, and in particular the nutritional condition of refugee children;

UNHCR Action: Currently UNHCR and WFP are undertaking a review of the Revised Working Arrangements that took effect on 1 January

1992 (see EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.31). In addition, workshops and training programmes are being organized for UNHCR and WFP headquarters and field staff with special reference to monitoring of food and food aid management. The Administrative Committee on Coordination/Subcommittee on Nutrition (ACC/SCN) is presently coordinating a working group dealing with the various aspects of refugee nutrition. UNHCR has also made commitments to ensure active participation of a nutritionist in the joint WFP/UNHCR food assessment missions. There are five UNHCR nutritionists in the field, mainly in the Africa region and one in Headquarters to coordinate the nutrition activities of various implementing partners, including international NGOs. Moreover, efforts are also being made jointly by WFP/UNHCR to sensitize donors to the specific food needs of refugee children, in particular as regards the procurement and production of enriched blended food and weaning foods. In addition to international procurement and production, local production is sometimes necessary to ensure that such food is not only nutritional and digestible, but that it takes into account cultural factors and traditional feeding habits.

Para. 31 (d) Asks that the basic primary education needs of refugee children be better addressed and that, even in the early stages of emergencies, educational requirements be identified so that prompt attention may be given to such needs;

UNHCR Action: UNHCR has proposed an allocation of $ 22.37 million for refugee education programmes in 1993, which represents 6.02 per cent of the total planned General Programmes expenditure for the year. This figure is lower that the $ 36.97 million allocated to refugee education programmes last year although, in percentage terms, it represents an overall increase of 1.71 per cent over the total monetary resources allocated to education in the 1992 General Programmes. UNHCR had included the identification and the coverage of educational needs of refugee children from former Yugoslavia in its planned activities for addressing the emergency needs of this group of refugees but, due to unforeseen circumstances, implementation was delayed. However, as part of the response to the recent emergency affecting Togolese refugees in Benin and Ghana, educational needs assessment missions were fielded shortly after the outbreak of that emergency situation and concrete plans for addressing the identified needs have been drawn up and are in the process of being implemented. In addition to direct bilateral donations, UNHCR allocated some 8.5 per cent of the total overall planned budget for the two countries to support education programmes from which refugees could benefit.

Para. 31 (e) Notes with concern the high drop-out rates among refugee children, especially girls, prevailing in many refugee

schools and urges UNHCR to take steps to encourage and facilitate the retention of children at school, with special attention to refugee girls;

UNHCR Action: In order to understand better the extent to which educational needs of refugees are being met, UNHCR has taken steps to collect and analyze statistics on refugee education. UNHCR has also planned to conduct an evaluation of the education sector soon, and the recommendations of this evaluation will help guide the manner in which educational needs of refugee children could be better addressed. In addition to these two measures, UNHCR will soon undertake an in-depth study aimed at understanding the various factors which lead refugee children, especially girls, to drop out of school, so as to devise strategies which could eradicate this problem. The study will initially focus on the countries covered by the Regional Bureau for Africa and the Regional Bureau for South West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, where the problem of dropouts seems to be more prominent.

Para. 31 (g) Encourages UNHCR to participate in the preparatory process for the International Year of The Family 1994 with a view to highlighting the importance of the refugee family as a vital support structure for its most vulnerable members, in particular refugee children including unaccompanied minors, and to facilitate family reunion, where determined to be in the best interests of the child;

UNHCR Action: The International Year of the Family has provided UNHCR with an opportunity to reinforce and renew its commitment to the refugee family as the planning unit for providing assistance and protection. In preparing for the Year, UNHCR has endeavoured to adhere to the Guiding Principles for Social Development Policies and Programmes as enunciated in 1989 and adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/125. In addition to the development of a detailed overall Plan of Action, which includes the preparation of a policy paper on the refugee family, each Branch Office has been invited to prepare country-specific programmes. To date, over 60 Branch Offices have spelt out concrete proposals; country specific developments are shared regularly throughout the Office by means of a progress report.

Para. 31 (h) Welcomes initiatives to present UNHCR Guidelines on Refugee Children in a revised format and encourages UNHCR to formulate targeted training programmes and to develop additional training material on refugee children to be used with existing programmes;

UNHCR Action: The UNHCR Guidelines on Refugee Children are currently being revised. A draft is presently being circulated within UNHCR, including to Branch Offices. The comments of other relevant

bodies, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental, are also being sought. As to additional training material on refugee children, relevant case studies are being included in the POP training. Further details are provided in the "Information Note on the Revision of the Guidelines on Refugee Children" (EC/SCP/81).

Para. 31 (i) Requests the High Commissioner to present a policy paper on refugee children to the forty-fourth session of the Executive Committee, and to report on activities and measures taken by UNHCR to improve the situation of refugees;

UNHCR Action: As mentioned above, the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection will have before it a document entitled UNHCR Policy on Refugee Children (EC/SCP/82). A Conference Room Paper entitled "Programming for the Benefit of Refugee Children" (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.15) was presented to the joint meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters and of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection held on 18 May 1993.

Para. 31 (j) Recognizes that the full implementation of standards set forth in the Guidelines on Refugee Children implies the appropriate allocation of resources, calls on UNHCR to approve programme budgets accordingly and appeals to the international community to be supportive of UNHCR in this regard.

UNHCR Action: The strategy of the Office is to ensure that the policy guidelines are taken into account in the earliest phases of the programming exercise. This approach is confirmed in the recommendations of the UNHCR internal Working Group on Programme Management and Operational (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.20) where it is stated that the needs of vulnerable groups, particularly of children and women have to be given priority.

I. Decisions on Programme, Administrative and Financial Matters

1. General Decision on Administrative and Financial Matters

Para. 32 (a) Reaffirms the value of the inter-sessional meetings of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters as a means of assuring timely governance for the Office's administrative, financial and operational activities, and recommends that a minimum of two such meetings be convened between the annual meetings of the Executive Committee;

UNHCR Action: Since the last Executive Committee meeting, the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters has met on three occasions: 17 December 1992 (see the report of the meeting in document EC/SC.2/59); on 31 March 1993 (see the report of the meeting in document EC/SC.2/60); and on 19 May 1993 (see the

draft report of the meeting in document (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.17).

Para. 32 (c) Requests UNHCR to present at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters any revised programme and contingency needs under the 1993 General Programmes and an assessment of funding prospects for the 1993 General Programmes, including the Programme Reserve, General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation, and Emergency Funds;

UNHCR Action: As requested by the Executive Committee, the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters was presented at its 17 December 1992 meeting with the relevant information (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.25/Rev.1 (Annex VI).

Para. 32 (d) Authorizes the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters to and formulate at its next meeting recommendations for a possible revision of the 1993 General Programmes for the Executive Committee to act upon urgently;

UNHCR Action: As the report of the 17 December 1992 meeting of the Sub-Committee indicates, recommendations for a revision to the 1993 General Programmes target were made to the Executive Committee; at its meeting on the same day, the Executive Committee approved the recommendations, as proposed (see A/AC.96/806).

Para. 32 (e) Requests the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters to pursue the review of its categorization of activities between General and Special Programmes, their inter-relationship and other relevant funding-related issues;

UNHCR Action: The issue of General and Special Programmes, in particular their categorization, inter-relationship and other funding-related questions was considered by the Sub-Committee at its 19 May 1993 meeting (see EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.11).

Para. 32 (h) Urges the High Commissioner, in view of the changed situation that the Office now faces, in particular the increasing demands being made on the Office and the related increases in administrative expenditures that are a proper charge to the Regular Budget, to enter into negotiations with the Secretary-General to proceed with the transfer of the already agreed posts of chiefs of missions in 17 designated Least Developed Countries from UNHCR voluntary funding to the Regular Budget as from the biennium 1994-1995, notwithstanding the fact that it was formerly agreed that no further proposals for the transfer of posts to the Regular Budget would be made before 1999;

UNHCR Action: In its submission of 15 February 1993 to the Controller of the United Nations for the proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1994-1995, UNHCR included in its budget the 17 posts in question; the submission also drew attention to the decision of the Executive Committee.

Para. 32 (l) Notes with concern the observations of the Board of Auditors in relations to management issues, especially those dealing with financial management and control systems, and urges UNHCR to take additional steps to further enhance its internal control procedures and those to its operational partners;

UNHCR Action: As indicated by the High Commissioner to the forty-third session of the Executive Committee, her intention was to enhance management and financial control mechanisms. Details on steps taken in this regard may be found in UNHCR action under paragraph 32 (z) below.

Para. 32 (m) Welcomes the recommendations both of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in relation to the establishment within the Internal Audit Division of a truly UNHCR-dedicated audit unit in Geneva to ensure adequate and effective coverage of UNHCR programmes and related activities, and calls on the High Commissioner to enter into discussion with the Secretary-General to assure their timely implementation;

UNHCR Action: A UNHCR-dedicated unit within the Internal Audit Division (IAD) has been established; consultations are continuing with the IAD with a view to refining organizational arrangements so as to assure a comprehensive audit coverage of UNHCR activities.

Para. 32 (o) Renews its request to the High Commissioner to ensure that the importance attached to evaluations activities be reflected in the timely consideration and the appropriate follow-up to the findings of the Office's Central Evaluation Section, and welcomes in this regard the decision of the High Commissioner to follow-up on the recommendations of the Evaluation Unit with regard to the need for prioritization of UNHCR's activities in Europe and to related redeployment of staff resources;

UNHCR Action: UNHCR has introduced an integrated package of measures intended to strengthen the organization's capacity to undertake systematic reviews of key policy, management and operational issues, and to ensure that evaluation findings and recommendations are followed up and taken into account in activities such as planning, training and programme design. Details are provided in the document entitled "UNHCR Evaluation Activities" (A/AC.96/809).

Para. 32 (p) Notes the steps taken by UNHCR to improve the documentation presented to the Executive Committee, and urges UNHCR to highlight more clearly (i) the relationship between country/area priorities and programme proposals and budgetary estimates, and (ii) the relationship between country programme proposals and policies, and guidelines approved by the Executive Committee on the protection of refugee women and on refugee children, as well as to examine closely the additional recommendations of the ACABQ (A/AC.96/800), with a view to consulting with the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters at its next session on this issue;

UNHCR Action: In preparing the documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Executive Committee, the Office has striven to show still more clearly the relationship between country/area priorities and programme proposals and the budgetary estimates; this is reflected in document A/AC.96/808(Parts I-VI). The importance of policy guidelines in the preparation of programme proposals is noted under paragraph 31 (j) above. The additional recommendations of the ACABQ were discussed in the December 1992 meeting of the Sub-Committee; a report of this discussion is found in document EC/SC.2/59, paragraphs 31 and 32.

Para. 32 (r) Recognizes the difficulties associated with the compilation of refugee statistics but, given the importance of such statistics, especially for gender-sensitive programme planning, urges UNHCR to pursue the proposals as set out in its Information Note on UNHCR's Refugee Statistics (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.16) and to provide the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters at one of its inter-sessional meetings with presently available statistical data;

UNHCR Action: At the 17 December 1992 meeting of the Sub-Committee, a Conference Room Paper giving refugee statistics at 30 June 1992 was presented (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.27). Subsequently, a number of informal meetings were held with interested Permanent Missions to discuss the methodological issues related to the collection and collation of refugee statistics.

Para. 32 (s) Notes the paper on the Classification of Activities/Categorization of Posts (PSA/PPE) (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.17) and the comments of the ACABQ thereon, and requests UNHCR to submit to the Sub-Committee in the first part of 1993 the preliminary results of its exercise of presenting all posts according to the proposed categories: Executive Direction and Management, Substantive Posts, Operational Posts and Support Posts;

UNHCR Action: Developments in relation to the classification exercise were set out in a Conference Room Paper (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.13) presented to the meeting of the Sub-Committee on 19 May 1993. The issue will be considered again at the forthcoming meeting of the Sub-Committee on 1 October 1993 (see EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.25)

Para. 32 (t) Welcomes the Note on UNHCR's Emergency Response Capacity (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.15) and expresses appreciation for the progress described therein, and urges the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to strengthen the Office's emergency response capability, particularly on a regional basis, by extending the range of stand-by agreements with Government authorities, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations and to take any further steps that might be necessary for the training, mobilization and release of UNHCR staff for emergency operations in order to ensure a flexible, effective and rapid response to emergencies including presentation of relevant features of the Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and Guidelines on Refugee Children in a format more easily usable by emergency field staff;

UNHCR Action: To further enhance UNHCR's response capacity, additional standby arrangements are in the process of being concluded. These include Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Public Health Department of the United States, which would incorporate specific arrangement with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and with EMERCOM, the Civil Defence agency of the Russian Federation for standby capacity, in particular, for air and land transport. A more flexible system of organizing Emergency Response Teams from among UNHCR's internal staff has been established which allows for greater guarantee in the release of staff for emergency missions. A training course is currently being developed which is aimed at meeting gaps in management skills in the specific context of UNHCR emergency operations.

Para. 32 (u) With regard to plans to republish the UNHCR Handbook on Emergencies, requests the Office to expand existing aspects of protection for women and children now found in the Handbook to include more complete information found in the Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and the Guidelines on Refugee Children, perhaps by using the new format described above;

UNHCR Action: Pending the revision of the UNHCR Handbook on Emergencies, efforts are being made to disseminate the Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women and the Guidelines on Refugee Children through the intervention of social workers during the emergency phase. This is now better ensured through the

standby arrangement for the deployment of social workers to emergency operations referred to earlier.

Para. 32 (v) Encourages the Office to build on the close working relationship already established with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator and his Department for Humanitarian Affairs so as to assure a coordinated and effective response to complex, humanitarian emergency situations;

UNHCR Action: UNHCR has participated actively in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and has cooperated closely with his Department in joint needs assessments and consolidated appeals. Details are contained in the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Economic and Social Council (E/1993/20).

Para. 32 (w) Notes the significant organized voluntary repatriation movements that have taken place so far in 1992 and urges both States and UNHCR to facilitate this preferred durable solution, particularly for movements scheduled to take place in the latter part of 1992;

UNHCR Action: The Office continues to pursue this preferred durable solution where circumstances permit. Regular reports are presented to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters on the Office's efforts in this regard (see UNHCR action under paragraph 32 (x)).

Para. 32 (x) Expresses appreciation for the note on Voluntary Repatriation Programmes (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.19) and asks that further such notes continue to be provided on a regular basis to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters;

UNHCR Action: Progress reports on the pursuit of the preferred durable solution of voluntary repatriation have been presented regularly to the meetings of the Sub-Committee; the next report will be presented to the 1 October 1993 meeting of the Sub-Committee (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP 23).

Para. 32 (y) Urges the High Commissioner to continue her efforts along the broad lines described in document EC/SC.2/56, "Bridging the Gap between Returnee Aid and Development", to involve international, national and intergovernmental development agencies, as well as non-governmental agencies, in the planning phases for voluntary repatriations so as to ensure that basic reintegration assistance provided by UNHCR to returnees is complemented by broader development initiatives focused on the areas of return and requests that the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters be kept

informed at its inter-sessional meetings of developments in this regard so as to be able to pursue related issues;

UNHCR Action: Pursuant to the report of 20 August 1992 by the High Commissioner to the forty-third session of the Executive Committee entitled "Bridging the Gap between Returnee Aid and Development" (EC/SC.2/56) and the High Commissioner's report to the 1993 session of ECOSOC on refugee/returnee aid and development as a contribution to achieving durable solutions to refugee problems, a senior coordinator has been appointed to address policy, strategy and methodological issues pertaining to the interface between UNHCR humanitarian assistance and longer-term development investments for true sustainability of UNHCR repatriation and reintegration efforts. The Coordinator is working together with the previously appointed senior coordinators for refugee women, refugee children and environmental affairs in a Programme Policy Unit attached to the Division for Programmes and Operational Support (DPOS). In the context of efforts to ensure coherent and cost-effective interventions in support of durable solutions for refugees, the High Commissioner is seeking broader and deeper partnerships with both humanitarian and development agencies; these include the World Bank, those of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as bilateral partners and NGOs.

Para. 32 (z) Encourages the High Commissioner to continue to maintain transparent and responsible management of the Office's resources, both human and financial;

UNHCR Action: To assure such a management of the Office's resources, the High Commissioner launched a series of meetings with the Directors of the Division of Human Resources Management and the then Controller's Division. Reports on these discussions have been shared with the Sub-Committee (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.5 and EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.9). The High Commissioner also appointed a UNHCR internal Working Group on Programme Management and Operational Capacity; a summary of its findings is before the Sub-Committee (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.20).

Para. 32 (aa) Urges the High Commissioner to keep the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters regularly informed of issues related to international procurement, given its important relationship to the timely implementation of refugee programmes;

UNHCR Action: A Conference Room Paper on international procurement will be presented to the forthcoming meeting of the Sub-Committee (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.24).

Para. 32 (bb) Notes the High Commissioner's Public Information Strategy as presented in document EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.10, and asks that the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters, in the course of its inter-sessional meetings, give further consideration to this important subject.

UNHCR Action: At its meeting of 19 May 1993, the Sub-Committee considered a "Report on UNHCR's Public Information Strategy" (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.10).

2. Environment

33.(c) Asks the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters to explore further the financial implications of UNHCR's environmental policy, including the extent to which General Programmes can incorporate environmental concerns and ways of funding specific, refugee-related environmental projects.

UNHCR Action: A range of issues related to refugees and the environment will be raised in a Conference Room Paper (EC/1993/SC.2/CRP.22) to be presented to the 1 October 1993 meeting of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters; it is proposed in the Paper that the consideration of budgetary implications of a UNHCR policy on the environment be deferred to a later inter-sessional meeting.